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EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

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REPORT
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1950

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Councillor John Burnip

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Accountant—E. L. Allison, A.I.M.T.A.

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Sanitary Inspector—R. E. V. Warrand, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—J. R. Day, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

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Sanitary Inspector—P. E. Budd, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Surveyor—R. R. Lumsden, Dip.M.Eng.

Cleansing Superintendent—J. W. Moore.

Water Superintendent—R. Blakey.

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1950.

EASINGTON,
CO. DURHAM,
1951.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year, 1950.

The work accomplished by the department during the year is described in the various sections of the report and the final section, which relates to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors' department, has been contributed by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The main points of interest contained in the body of the report are summarised in this introductory letter with some brief comment.

VITAL STATISTICS

This heading includes the figures or rates which allow a comparison to be made between the health of the inhabitants of the district in different years and the health of the country as a whole. They include the birth rate, the general death rate, the infantile mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate.

BIRTH RATE.

The figure of 18·3 per 1,000 of the population shows a decline on that of 19·6 for 1949, which in turn was a little below that of 21·1 for 1948. It remains, however, higher than the rate for England and Wales as a whole (15·8) and the rate for the 148 smaller towns (16·7).

It will be seen that while the decline from the high figures of the post war years continues, the fertility of the district remains at a relatively high level.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The figure for the general death rate was 10·4 per 1,000 of the population, a fraction higher than that for 1949 which was 10·3. It compares favourably, however, with that of 11·6 for England and Wales.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The infantile mortality rate is the number of children under one year of age who die out of every 1,000 live births, and is a factor of considerable importance in assessing the general health of the district.

The rate for this area in 1950 was 49·2, an increase of one on the figure for 1949, which was 48·3. It again compares unfavourably with that for England and Wales which continued to decline reaching the low level of 29·8, and it also remains above the figure for London and the large towns which was 33·8.

Out of a total of 74 deaths of infants under one year 38 (51·4%) occurred in the first four weeks of life, a neo-natal mortality rate of 25·3 per 1,000 live births. In 19 of these prematurity was given as the primary cause of death and in five as a contributory cause. There were three deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis in children under two years of age as contrasted with nine in 1949.

It must be said at once that these figures are neither comforting nor complimentary. A further increase in the infantile mortality rate for this district while the national figure continues to decline, and a marked increase in the neo-natal mortality rate are both disturbing facts to record.

The subject of infantile mortality was discussed at length in the report for 1949, and there is little further that can usefully be added. As was then shown, the unenviable position of this district in the matter of infantile mortality is shared by the County as a whole and constitutes a challenge to those responsible for the child health of the area.

Maternal Mortality.

One maternal death, due to sepsis, was recorded during the year giving a maternal mortality rate of ·65. There were no deaths due to "other maternal causes" and this figure, contrasted with the national figure of ·86, can be regarded as satisfactory.

Thorpe Maternity Hospital, the erstwhile Thorpe Isolation Hospital, has at the time of writing been functioning in its new role for nearly one year and is proving itself a useful asset in the maternity work of the area.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

A scrutiny of the table giving the individual causes of death shows that heart disease retains its position at the head of the list, while cancer regains the second place displacing diseases of the blood vessels of the brain to third position. Bronchitis and pneumonia come fourth with tuberculosis (all forms) fifth and the group comprising diseases of early infancy and congenital malformation sixth.

TUBERCULOSIS

The statistics for this disease are set out and summarised in the relevant section of the report.

There was an increase in the number of new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease, and the number of notifications of the non-pulmonary type remains the same as in 1949. The number of deaths from both forms of the disease was considerably lower than in 1949. When the mortality rates of the district for both forms of the disease are compared with those for England and Wales it will be seen that both compare favourably with the corresponding national figure. It is particularly gratifying to record the improvement in the non-pulmonary rate since, in recent years at any rate, the figure for this district has invariably been higher than the corresponding national figure. This welcome fall is probably due to the increased consumption of tuberculin tested and pasteurised milk.

It is, however, also satisfactory to record that among the 135 milk samples taken during the year and submitted to biological examination for tubercle bacilli only six, or 4·4 per cent., were found to be positive whereas in 1949, 148 samples gave 11 positives equivalent to 7·4 per cent. of the samples taken.

A Mass Radiography Unit visited Murton in November, 1950, and met with a satisfactory response, 2410 persons coming forward for X-ray.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notifications of these diseases are set out in Table 8. The incidence of scarlet fever again declined, only 89 cases being notified as compared with 103 in 1949 and 403 in 1948. There were again no deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria notifications numbered 39 as against 12 in 1949, and 50 in 1948. Of these 39 notifications 14 were subsequently confirmed. At first sight this would appear to show a rather alarming increase in the incidence of diphtheria, but it is probable that the increase is apparent rather than real. Changes consequent upon the introduction of the National Health Service Act, 1946, at first somewhat disrupted the normal system of notification, and a number of cases undoubtedly went unrecorded during the year 1949. This position has now been remedied consequent upon the issue by the Ministry of Health of a circular setting out the new procedure to be followed, and the figures for the current year can be taken as a true index of the position.

There was an increase in the number of cases of measles, 1,002 being notified as against 867 in 1949, but there were no deaths from this disease.

Whooping cough notifications were approximately the same as in 1949, 202 cases being reported as against 210. It is, however, very gratifying to record that there were no deaths from this disease during the year. The advisability of prophylactic inoculation against this disease is becoming increasingly recognised.

There were nine notifications of meningococcal infection during the year, but only two of these cases on investigation were subsequently confirmed.

After a quiet year in 1949 poliomyelitis was again much more prevalent, and 18 cases of this disease were notified during the year as compared with one case in 1949. On investigation 12 of these cases were found to be paralytic, three non-paralytic, and three were not confirmed.

Two cases of paratyphoid B. fever were reported during the year, both of which were fully investigated. The first case occurred in a child, and in spite of many enquiries the source of infection could not be ascertained. The second case occurred in a male adult, and the infection was found to have been acquired from a known carrier of the organism who was living in the same house. This carrier, an elderly woman, had been infected during the outbreak which occurred in south Tyneside during the summer of 1949.

An account is given on page 22 of an extensive outbreak of food poisoning which occurred in Horden during the month of July. This outbreak, which was of some magnitude, resulted in considerable publicity and involved the staff of the department in much work. This was the only outbreak reported throughout the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

As was explained under this heading in the report for 1949 detailed figures regarding diphtheria immunisation are no longer available to this department, but the relevant statistics have been extracted from the quarterly reports of the County Medical Officer of Health and have been set out in the body of the report.

All the figures show a considerable increase on those reported in 1949, but for the reasons explained in the report for that year, the increase is probably more apparent than real. The settlement of the lengthy dispute as to remuneration for this work facilitated the rendering of proper returns of the work done.

It is again encouraging to note the increasing number of children who have received a reinforcing injection.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In March, 1950, a lecture on food hygiene was given to members of the catering trade in the Church Hall, Easington Village. At this lecture the Ministry of Health film "Another Case of Poisoning" was shown by the Central Office of Information, and 76 persons attended. Talks on health were also given to the Parent-Teacher Association at Murton County Infants' School and to the Wingate Mothers' Club.

In May, 1950, the Council approved the purchase of a film strip projector together with certain film strips on hygiene, and at the latter of the above two meetings a film strip was shown.

SCABIES

No cases of scabies were reported to the department during the year, and as was stated in the report for 1949, the incidence of this disease in the district is now very low. It was therefore decided to close the special clinic for the treatment of these cases which had been maintained since the early days of the war, and to transfer the building to the Cleansing Department for ablution purposes.

An agreement has been made between this authority and the Sunderland Health Committee whereby the latter will undertake the treatment of any cases which may occur and cannot be dealt with in their own homes, a small payment being made by this authority on a *per capita* basis.

WATER

Routine samples of piped water supply have been taken at various points in the district throughout the year and submitted to bacteriological examination. Out of 55 such samples only four were found to be unsatisfactory and prompt action was taken in each case by the water undertaking concerned to remedy the matter. Further details regarding the water supply of the district will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's section of the report.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The section of the report dealing with the environmental services has been contributed by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and with it is included a section dealing with matters such as water supply and sewerage contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor, and one covering public cleansing by the Cleansing Superintendent. The section contains much of interest and, since the contents do not allow of easy summary, it should be read as a whole.

STAFF

There were no changes in the staff of the department during the year.

CONCLUSION

With the exception of the infantile mortality rate the statistics for 1950 are satisfactory, and the general health of the area can be said to have remained reasonably good.

The normal biennial increase of the disease explains the heavier incidence of measles, and the larger number of diphtheria cases can be accounted for on grounds other than a true rise in the incidence of the disease. The food poisoning outbreak at Horden, while unfortunate in that it caused much discomfort and inconvenience, was an isolated incident of limited duration.

This report, written in some haste, is the last which I shall write as your Medical Officer of Health, and by the time it appears in print I shall have left your service. It only remains for me to express my thanks to the Council for their steady support throughout the six years during which I have held office, and to express to the staff of the department my gratitude for their friendly co-operation and willing service, not only during the year under review but also throughout my term of office.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. F. DAWSON-WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	34,653
Registrar General's estimate of resident population year, 1950	82,310
Number of Hereditaments on 31st December, 1950 according to the Rate Books	23,655
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1950)	£322,702
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1949–50) . .	£1,227

VITAL STATISTICS

Births :—Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	785	684	1469
Illegitimate	15	20	35
	800	704	1504

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	18·27

Stillbirths :—

Legitimate	14	20	34
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	15	21	36

Rate per 1,000 total births	23·38

Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of infants under 1 year :

Legitimate	47	24	71
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	48	26	74

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1,000 live births, 49.20.

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1,000 legitimate live births, 48.33.

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 85.71.

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS—	470	387	857

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.41

MATERNAL DEATHS—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

from Sepsis	1
from Other Causes	Nil
Total	1

Maternal Mortality Rate	0.65

TABLE 1. DEATHS—CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH.

	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks-under 1 year	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 up
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	22	—	—	—	—	2	6	2	4	6	2	—
Tuberculosis, Other	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	7	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	135	—	—	—	—	2	3	10	21	30	43	26
Diabetes	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	101	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	34	51
Coronary Disease, Angina	82	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	28	35	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	4
Other Heart Disease	187	—	—	—	1	—	—	9	16	18	41	102
Other Circulatory Disease	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	14
Influenza	12	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	4	3
Pneumonia	36	—	13	2	—	—	—	2	3	5	5	6
Bronchitis	30	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	3	7	8	8
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	16	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	2	3	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	5	2	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	7	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	13	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	—	3	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	16	6	7	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases ..	94	31	5	1	1	1	6	2	14	6	10	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	23	—	4	3	2	—	3	5	3	—	2	1
Suicide	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	1	—
TOTALS	857	38	36	7	11	12	23	42	83	135	210	260

TABLE 2.

Cancer

The following table gives the deaths from Cancer, in age groups, and the localisation of the disease.

	Ages in Years					Totals
	1 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 up	
Stomach ...	—	1	10	13	7	31
Lung & Bronchus	1	2	5	1	—	9
Breast ...	—	4	7	3	—	14
Uterus ...	—	—	6	2	2	10
Other Causes ...	1	6	23	24	17	71
	2	13	51	43	26	135

TABLE 3.

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 10 Years

Year	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
1941	11.6	73.4	19.7
1942	10.8	58.0	19.8
1943	11.3	75.3	20.6
1944	10.6	59.7	22.2
1945	11.0	54.1	21.1
1946	10.1	53.1	21.9
1947	10.8	63.1	22.0
1948	9.9	43.5	21.1
1949	10.3	48.3	19.6
1950	10.4	49.2	18.3

1950	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
England & Wales	11.6	29.8	15.8
Easington Rural District	10.4	49.2	18.3

TABLE 4.

Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1950.

	Rate per 1,000 Total population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population								D'th Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Stillbirths	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Smallpox	Tuberculosis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths (under 1 year)
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.46	0.01	0.00	[illegible]	1.9	29.8
Easington Rural District	18.3	0.44	10.4	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.15	2.0	49.2

TABLE 5.
Infantile Mortality Rates
(10 years)

Year	Births	Easington R. D. Inf. Mortality Rate	England & Wales Inf. Mortality Rate
1941	1485	73.4	59
1942	1488	57.0	49
1943	1539	75.3	49
1944	1690	59.7	46
1945	1627	54.1	46
1946	1751	53.1	43
1947	1759	63.1	41
1948	1722	43.5	34
1949	1616	48.3	32
1950	1504	49.2	29.8

TABLE 6.
Death Rates (10 years)

Year	Deaths	Easington R. D. Death Rate	England & Wales Death Rate
1941	884	11.6	12.9
1942	808	10.8	11.6
1943	850	11.3	12.1
1944	811	10.6	11.6
1945	848	11.0	11.4
1946	808	10.1	11.5
1947	862	10.8	12.0
1948	809	9.9	10.8
1949	850	10.3	11.7
1950	857	10.4	11.6

TABLE 7.
Natural Increase of Population

Year	Births	Deaths	Rate of Natural Increase per 1,000 population.
1941	1485	884	7.8
1942	1488	808	8.4
1943	1539	850	9.2
1944	1690	811	11.5
1945	1627	848	10.1
1946	1751	808	11.8
1947	1759	862	11.2
1948	1722	809	11.2
1949	1616	850	9.3
1950	1504	857	7.9

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1950

Population	82,310
Area (acres)	34,653
Estimated number of Hereditaments	23,655
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1950)	£322,702
Sum produced by penny rate (1949–50)	£1,227
Births	1,504
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	18·27
Deaths	857
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10·41
Death rate of infants under one year of age	49·2

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	Number	Percentage of total deaths
Diseases of the heart	282	32·91
Cancer	135	15·75
Diseases of the veins and arteries of the brain	101	11·32
Bronchitis and pneumonia	66	7·70
Tuberculosis (all forms)	25	2·92
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	22	2·57
Diseases of early infancy, and congenital malformations under 1 year	16	1·87

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Cases notified	Number of deaths	Death rate per 1,000 population
Measles	1002	—	—
Whooping Cough	221	—	—
Tuberculosis (all forms)	104 (new cases)	25	0·30
Scarlet Fever	89	—	—
Diphtheria	39	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	18	—	—
Erysipelas	12	—	—

Influenza, which is not notifiable, caused 12 deaths.

+ + +

SECTION II.

TABLE 8.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIED CASES, 1950.

DISEASE	Cases notified in whole district.										
	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 2+	3 to 4+	5 to 9+	10 to 14+	15 to 24+	25 to 34+	35 to 44+	45 to 64+	65 and over
Measles	1002	75	299	349	273	6	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	297	1	4	4	8	12	63	41	51	97	16
Whooping Cough	221	28	78	57	57	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	104	9	12	7	12	2	2	2	10	31	17
Scarlet Fever	89	—	10	21	34	17	7	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	39	2	4	5	13	5	5	3	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	16	—	2	5	4	2	3	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	4
Meningococcal Infection	9	3	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	86	—	1	1	3	6	31	19	6	17	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	18	—	2	—	5	5	3	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	1909	121	414	449	415	55	116	76	71	153	39

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past five years :—

TABLE 9.

Year	Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1946	139	2	132	Nil
1947	105	1	385	2
1948	50	Nil	403	Nil
1949	12	Nil	103	Nil
1950	39	Nil	89	Nil

TABLE 10.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

1950

CASES		
Notified	Treated	
	At Home	In Hospital
2	1	1

TABLE 11.

CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED EACH MONTH DURING 1950

Locality	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Blackhall	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Easington	—	—	1	—	2	1	2	1	1	1	—	1	10
Haswell	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Horden	—	—	—	1	3	—	4	4	2	—	—	—	14
Murton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
Shotton	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
South Hetton	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	4
Wheatley Hill	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
Totals	—	—	4	5	6	1	6	7	3	4	2	1	39

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The main points of interest in the foregoing tables can be briefly summarised as follows :—

The number of scarlet fever notifications was less than in the previous year. There were 89 notified cases of this disease in 1950 as compared with 103 in 1949 and 403 in 1948. Sporadic cases again occurred throughout the year and there was no definite period of increased incidence.

Diphtheria notifications numbered 39 as contrasted with 12 in 1949 and 50 in 1948, and of these 39 notifications 14 were subsequently confirmed.

The number of cases of measles showed an increase, 1002 being notified as against 867 in 1949 and 1430 in 1948. There was a heavy incidence of the disease in the first five months of the year, during which period 853 cases were notified.

Whooping cough notifications numbered 221 as against 210 in 1949. There were no deaths.

Cases of erysipelas numbered 12, a decrease of two on the figure for last year.

There were nine notifications of meningococcal infection during the year. Only two of these cases were subsequently confirmed.

Eighteen cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis (16 paralytic, 2 non-paralytic) were notified during the year as compared with one case in 1949. On further investigation 12 of these cases were found to be paralytic, 3 non-paralytic, and 3 were not confirmed.

Six cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year. Last year there were none.

Two cases of paratyphoid B. fever were notified during the year.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 86, an increase of 14 on the figure for 1949 and seven less than that for 1948.

FOOD POISONING.

At 11 p.m. on Sunday, July 9th, information reached the Medical Officer of Health from the senior partner in a practice of five doctors in the village of Horden, that a large number of patients had been seen during the weekend complaining of symptoms which were suggestive of food poisoning. The doctors concerned thought that the food responsible was probably some pork.

In view of the lateness of the hour, nothing could be done that night, but early on Monday morning, July 10th, the whole of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's staff was put to work on the investigation. A rapid survey of 15 households, involving 28 patients, showed that the doctors' suspicions were probably correct, and that the vehicle of infection was pork which had been consumed in the form of sandwiches, sausages, pies, pigs cheek, and also used as an ingredient of peas-pudding. A visit was immediately paid to the butcher's shop by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who was unfortunately unable to obtain even a fragment of the cooked meat but was able to secure the remainder of the suspected carcase. Portions of this carcase were immediately dispatched to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle-upon-Tyne for bacteriological examination. During the Monday afternoon bacteriological specimens from patients were also sent to the same laboratory.

On Tuesday morning, July 11th, bacteriological specimens from the butcher's family and staff were sent to the laboratory. On the morning of Wednesday, July 12th, the bacteriologist was able to say that food poisoning organisms of an identical type had been obtained from the suspected pig carcase and from the specimens taken from the patients.

Up to this time it had been very difficult to obtain even an approximate estimate of the number of persons affected, but it appeared to be in the region of two and three hundred. It was therefore decided to obtain from the doctors concerned lists of the patients suffering from gastro-enteritis whom they had treated, and to visit all these families with a view to ascertaining firstly whether they had consumed any foodstuff from the butcher's shop in question and secondly whether any of them, either the patients themselves or members of their families, were food handlers. This was done on Thursday morning, July 13th, by the Sanitary Inspector's staff. From these investigations it appeared that the number involved in the outbreak was between 500 and 550.

The infected pork in its various forms was on sale throughout Friday and Saturday, July 7th and 8th, and the first cases appear to have been taken ill about mid-day on Saturday, July 8th. The interval between consuming the infected food and the onset of symptoms varied considerably, being from 18 hours to 96 hours, and the symptoms were typical of food poisoning. During the next few days five patients were admitted to the Sunderland Infectious Diseases Hospital, all of whom recovered. A woman of 79 years of age, who consumed some of the suspected pork, died and a post mortem examination, held on the Coroner's instructions, showed that the death was due to infection by the causal organism of the outbreak. A woman of 76 who died at the same time was found to have been infected with the same type of organism, but in spite of careful enquiry no connection with the infected foodstuff could be found in her case.

Subsequent investigation into the history of the infected pig carcase showed that it was received into the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Station Town, Wingate, on July 3rd as a dressed carcase of sow pig unaccompanied by pluck, stomach or intestines. The carcase was that of a well nourished animal, was well bled and free from any visible abnormality in the musculature. It appeared to be perfectly normal except that the kidneys were paler than usual and there was some superficial scarring of the teats. The carcase had set well, and in the absence of any positive evidence of disease the kidneys and scarred belly tissues were removed and the carcase passed for human consumption. It was then delivered to the butcher the following day·

Between the 4th and 6th July, he prepared a mould of pig cheek and a quantity of pork pies and peas-pudding, the latter being enriched by pork stock. Approximately 40 lbs. of pork sausage was made from one loin, and the two shoulders were boned, boiled and finally baked for sale in the form of sandwiches. The remainder of the carcase, which involved one loin and both legs, was reserved for manufacture and sale the following week and was in a refrigerator on the premises at the time of the inspector's first visit on July 10th.

Later enquiries revealed that the pig had been bought by a local pig-keeper six months previously for breeding purposes. Following the birth of a litter on June 13th the pig suckled its young for two weeks and then gradually went off its food. A veterinary surgeon brought in by the pig-keeper at this stage suspected intestinal obstruction, but in the absence of any appreciable improvement in the animal's condition the owner decided to slaughter it and on the afternoon of Saturday, July 1st, this was done by a local slaughterman, who personally examined the intestines in detail in an effort to trace the suspected obstruction. Under the mistaken impression that the pluck, stomach and intestines were of no value the owner buried them. According to the statement of the owner, the slaughterman who killed and dressed the animal and the veterinary surgeon who previously treated it and who saw the carcase were both satisfied that, apart from some enlargement of the liver, the pluck and intestines were normal in all respects.

The pluck, stomach and intestines were subsequently traced and exhumed and the bacteriologist was able to isolate the food poisoning organism concerned in the outbreak from the exhumed intestine of the pig and from the interior of the carcase, thus showing conclusively that the prime cause of the outbreak was the infected pig carcase.

Once the cause of the outbreak had been ascertained the activities of the department were immediately directed to tracing of patients and contacts who were employed as food handlers, and ensuring that they did not return to their occupations until they had all been proved to be clear of the infection. The number of secondary cases was extremely small, and it would appear that the efforts of the department in this respect met with a considerable degree of success.

While the outbreak constituted an unfortunate incident it is satisfactory to be able to record that the deaths as a result of it were so few, and that the source of infection was quickly and definitely traced.

SECTION III.

TABLE 12

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following details have been extracted from the Quarterly Reports of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Quarter Ended	Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation. Age at date of final injection.		Total	Number of children who were given a reinforcing injection.
	under 5	5—14		
31. 3.50	549	19	568	250
30. 6.50	248	12	260	126
30. 9.50	152	24	176	99
31.12.50	198	12	210	106
Totals ..	1147	67	1214	581

SECTION IV.

TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 13.

Number of Cases on Register at 31st December, 1950.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL CASES
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
287	248	535	199	179	378	913

TABLE 14.

New Cases and Mortality, 1950.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 2 +	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
3 — 4 +	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 9 +	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	—
10 — 14+	1	5	4	1	—	—	—	—
15 — 24+	11	20	—	3	1	1	—	—
25 — 34+	9	10	—	3	3	3	1	—
35 — 44+	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
45 — 64+	11	6	—	—	8	2	1	1
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
	41	45	7	11	14	8	2	1

TABLE 15.

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

YEAR	NEW CASES						DEATHS						No. on Register at end of Year					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1941	24	22	46	28	29	57	21	13	34	6	2	8	126	86	212	172	185	357
1942	38	35	73	41	36	77	18	10	28	6	3	9	147	113	260	202	217	419
1943	29	30	59	18	28	46	20	17	37	8	4	12	167	140	307	208	228	436
1944	32	37	69	22	29	51	13	10	23	5	7	12	183	165	348	211	233	444
1945	29	29	58	26	27	53	17	18	35	5	4	9	189	174	363	206	218	424
1946	47	35	82	21	19	40	18	6	24	7	3	10	207	189	396	185	186	371
1947	59	37	96	21	18	39	13	20	33	9	6	15	234	189	423	189	175	364
1948	51	42	93	11	9	20	15	14	29	6	3	9	254	206	460	193	176	369
1949	38	34	72	10	8	18	20	12	32	6	2	8	261	218	479	198	178	376
1950	41	45	86	7	11	18	14	8	22	2	1	3	287	248	535	199	179	378

TABLE 16.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis between the ages of 15 and 25 years, during the past 10 years.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of Total Pulmonary Deaths
1941	5	4	9	27%
1942	6	9	15	54%
1943	9	7	16	43%
1944	1	4	5	21%
1945	3	8	11	31%
1946	3	3	6	25%
1947	5	11	16	48%
1948	3	4	7	24%
1949	2	5	7	22%
1950	1	1	2	9%

TABLE 17.

The following Table shows the number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages) during the past five years—the figures in parenthesis indicating deaths occurring in previously notified cases of Tuberculosis.

YEAR	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1946	18 (16)	6 (6)	24 (22)	7 (4)	3 (2)	10 (6)
1947	13 (9)	20 (20)	33 (29)	9 (7)	6 (5)	15 (12)
1948	15 (15)	14 (13)	29 (28)	6 (2)	3 (2)	9 (4)
1949	20 (20)	12 (11)	32 (31)	6 (6)	2 (—)	8 (6)
1950	14 (12)	8 (8)	22 (20)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
Totals	80 (72)	60 (58)	140 (130)	30 (21)	15 (10)	45 (31)

TUBERCULOSIS

The main points of interest in the foregoing tables can be summarised as follows :—

Eighty-six new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease were notified during the year, 41 of whom were males and 45 females. This was an increase of 14 upon the figure for 1949 which was 72, made up of 38 males and 34 females.

New notifications of the non-pulmonary form of the disease numbered 18, which was also the number for 1949.

The deaths from the pulmonary form of the disease showed an appreciable decrease from 32 in 1949 to 22, while in the non-pulmonary form the number of deaths was three as against eight in 1949.

The number of new cases among females in the 15 to 35 age group formed 64·3% of all new female cases.

The mortality rate for the district for the respiratory form of the disease in 1950 was 0·27 per thousand of the population, which is less than the figure of 0·32 per thousand for England and Wales as a whole. The mortality rate for the district in the non-pulmonary type of the disease, which was 0·036 per thousand, also compares favourably with the national rate for 1950 of 0·043 per thousand.

SECTION V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work undertaken by the Inspectorate during the year, 1950.

In considering the year's work a first impression is one of assessment of the effectiveness of legislation which was introduced in 1949 rather than the impact of any new measures during the year under review. As an example it was originally anticipated, especially in view of the cessation of large scale new building in the area, that the grant-aid available under the Housing Act, 1949, would give a welcome fillip to the improvement of many houses which, although sound, are lacking in certain amenities. Experience has proved otherwise and the realisation has been forced upon one that work on a considerable proportion of those properties which are suitable for consideration must wait indefinitely since the value of such reconditioning must be found from the Council's repairs quota. Even more disappointing is the realisation that many of the houses, being colliery houses and therefore coming within the category of "tied" property do not rank for grant.

Similarly, as a result of a twelve months' experience of the revised legislation governing the production and distribution of milk I have no hesitation in re-affirming that the degree of supervision previously exercised in this rural district over the production of milk is not being maintained. Indeed, it is difficult to see how it could be otherwise in view of the severe local limitation in staff at the disposal of the Ministry.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into force on the 31st March, 1950, and places responsibility on county districts for ensuring that all lands and premises within their respective boundaries are free from substantial infestation. In the discharge of the Council's duties under the Act the fullest co-operation has always been available from the Divisional Office of the Ministry and I gladly take this opportunity of placing that fact on record.

A serious outbreak of food poisoning which occurred in Horden during the summer, following the ingestion of pork from a casualty carcase infected with organisms of the salmonella group (newport) and which involved the whole department in considerable extra work was fully reported at the time both to the Ministry of Health and the District Council. It excited appreciable interest in professional and other circles and I devoutly wished at the time that our own concern could have been of an equally academic nature. On the credit side of the balance it may be said that the outbreak served to stress once more the importance of adequate case histories accompanying such animals to the abattoir and the value of bacteriological examination. Arrangements have, in fact, been concluded for the detention, prolonged if necessary, in future of any carcase of an animal not received through the customary Ministry channels and not adequately accounted for by accompanying case history, pending such additional laboratory examination. It has been said in respect of exhausted or feverish animals that "in such animals an alteration in the pH of the intestinal contents may permit such organisms, (salmonellae) which may be normally present in a quiescent state, to proliferate and gain in virulence. The associated decrease in the resistance of the intestinal wall enables them to penetrate the intestinal mucous membrane and pass to the mesenteric lymphatic glands and thus enter the lymph stream and eventually the general circulation." The carcase of an animal slaughtered at an early stage of such systemic invasion and prior to the production of lesions—would show no evidence of unfitness on post-mortem examination and yet be extremely dangerous. I believe that such a combination of circumstances was responsible for the outbreak.

In September, 1950, the Council joined the long list of authorities who have adopted byelaws for the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air. Their operation, in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the Food and Drugs Act should prove helpful in improving the standard of food hygiene although it should be noted that a certain vagueness persists in several of the terms used. This, to my mind, is important quite apart from being irritating, since any proposed prosecution if it is to succeed must show an infringement of the law as stated and not merely a failure to comply with an over zealous officer's interpretation of it.

Towards the end of the year an Act, which would not at first sight appear to be of much concern to the department, became law. I refer to the Allotments Act, 1950. Section 12 extends the right of an occupier to keep hens and rabbits, otherwise than by way of trade or business, but it makes no specific inclusion of pigs. It may be, therefore, that the local authority will obtain a very welcome and overdue measure of control over pig-keeping. The section, unfortunately, does not operate until Regulation 62B of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 ceases to have effect.

In addition to offering a collection of statistics the annual report, as its name implies, is used as a vehicle for focussing attention on any particular development whether it be laudable or the reverse and for this reason I think it proper to make some reference to the activities of the department in helping old people or, to use the impersonal phraseology of the Act—"securing necessary care and attention for aged persons." Investigation into the circumstances of a number of such persons was made : hostel accommodation was finally obtained in two cases, both men, who lived alone. The abode of one man was indistinguishable, viewed externally, from its neighbours and they were pig styes. The second lived alone in a rather remotely situated cottage. It was reported to have been a model of cleanliness and comfort during his wife's lifetime. I can only assume that during the years following his wife's death the man became that pitiful figure—a person without interest and apparently without hope—because when I saw it his cottage was a loathsome place. Just two cases but the prelude, I believe, to better things. I am glad in the knowledge that the department helped these people, at least, to win something to which surely all men and women are entitled—a measure of care and comfort in their declining years.

In conclusion I gratefully acknowledge your ready help and advice at all times, the co-operation of other chief officers and the steady support throughout the year of all members of the Health Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. R. SHORT,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water undertakings supplying the District are :—

Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.
Durham County Water Board.
Wingate and District Water Company.
The National Coal Board.
Easington Rural District Council.

With the exception of a portion of the supply delivered by Durham County Water Board all water is produced from deep wells and is either chlorinated at the source or at an intermediate storage point. All samples were taken after such treatment.

Fifty-five samples of mains water were taken from public stand pipes or consumers' premises and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne. With four exceptions all samples were of a high degree of bacterial purity. The four unsatisfactory samples constituted a series taken at Blackhall Rocks Holiday Camp and in all cases, although the coliform content indicated the presence of organic adulteration it was proved that in no case were the organisms of faecal origin. Subsequent sampling following flushing of the mains proved to be satisfactory.

A typical analysis of a mains supply is as follows :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS	PARTS PER 100,000
Total Solids	52·9
Chlorine as Chloride	5·10
Chlorine expressed as Sodium Chloride	8·42
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0·12
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Nil.
Free Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·0012
Alkalinity (as Calcium Carbonate) ..	29·03
Total Hardness	39·9
Total Hardness (degrees)	27·9
Suspended Matter	Nil.
Iron	Nil.
pH Value	7·4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION	
Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C.	21 per ml.
Coliform organisms absent in 1, 10, and 100 ml.	

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to houses (b) by means of standpipes, are given in the following table.

LOCALITY	1 Estimated population	2 Area in acres	3 Number of houses and other premises with dwelling ac'm'dat'n	4 No. of Houses with mains supply direct to houses	5 No. of Houses with mains supply from stand pipes	6 No. of Houses without mains supply
Burdon . .	87	1286	24	167	—	—
Seaton with Slingley . .	459	1392	128			
Warden Law . .	51	500	15			
Castle Eden . .	329	1542	138	132	—	6
Cold Hesledon	1067	1030	284	437	88	—
Dalton-le-Dale . .	766	811	241			
Easington with Thorpe	11343	3716	3047	3044	—	3
Haswell	2849	3766	1783	1597	22	—
South Hetton . .	3461				158	6
Hutton Henry . .	591	2016	166	730	20	3
Station Town . .	2567		657		70	
Hawthorn . .	334	1414	138	136	—	2
Blackhall . .	7292	2654	1978	2412	46	—
Hesledens . .	1512		480			
Murton East . .	9947	1406	2707	2148	557	2
Sheraton with Hulam	153	2346	41	18	—	23
Nesbit	8	333	3	3	—	—
Shotton	7093	2270	1877	1866	11	—
Horden . .	14912	2453	4008	4002	—	6
Thornley . .	4718	1148	1281	1261	20	—
Wingate	4357	4570	1222	3482	2	9
Wheatley Hill . .	6371		1679		14	
Trimdon . .	2043		607		1	
TOTALS . .	82310	34653	22504	21435	1009	60

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Nature of Nuisance	No. of Visits	Notices Served		Nuisances Abated
		Informal	Formal	
Foul Conditions	113	28	—	18
Structural Defects	271	74	—	57
Ashpits & Privies	27	5	—	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	59	12	—	10
Waterclosets	89	28	5	15
Defective Yard Paving	27	2	—	—
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps	51	11	4	14
Other Faults	165	39	9	44
Water Supply (Defective Fittings)	87	28	—	27
Animals improperly kept	101	12	—	10
Smoke Nuisances	35	4	—	4
Other Nuisances	187	16	—	10
Rat Infested Premises	148	2	—	2
Dustbins	245	58	9	63
Public Halls & Cinemas	49	3	—	5
Licensed Premises	75	—	—	—
Verminous Premises—				
Council Houses	55	12	—	12
Private Houses	13	4	—	4
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	825	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases Disinfections	209	—	—	—
Tents, Vans & Sheds	16	—	1	1
	2331	338	28	297

SCHOOLS.

Occasional inspections were made during the year in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing facilities. In some cases there is considerable room for improvement both in design and number, but there was no question of gross nuisance.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND COLLIERY SPOILBANKS.

There has been no material change in the position as described in some detail in my previous reports for the years 1947 and 1948. Periodic visits in company with the Area Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works of the Ministry of Health were continued to all collieries disposing of waste on the surface. Alternative arrangements for the disposal of colliery waste at Deaf Hill, Wingate and Thornley were discussed at some length with the Area General Manager of the National Coal Board and representatives of the Planning Authority. General agreement was reached on the advantages of filling in a close series of old quarry workings which would provide disposal facilities for the collieries mentioned for a number of years and obviate the necessity for new surface tips. The proposal has, unfortunately, shown no visible signs of coming to fruition and one wonders whether it is not to be just one more progressive idea which has been quietly filed away on the grounds of current economic inexpediency. Perhaps the real value of our efforts lies in the persistent agitation of public opinion to the level where it ultimately refuses to accept the inevitability of these "monuments of industry." On the other hand it is hoped that the acknowledged truth of the adage that "constant dripping wears away stone" is not accepted too literally.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

No applications for licences to site or occupy caravans, huts, etc., in the district were received during the year. The problem of "Cox's Field" at the entrance to Crimdon Lido persists and in the absence of any new legislation is likely to remain unsolved. The Council may only consider the sanitary and allied arrangements provided and they are generally satisfactory.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Twenty-five Council houses and three private houses were disinfested of bed bugs. Accounts were rendered in the case of all privately owned dwellings to cover the cost of time and materials used.

In 98 cases of infestation of house property by cockroaches advice and active assistance were given.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

825 visits and re-visits were made to houses during the year in respect of infectious disease and food poisoning enquiries and for

the purpose of disinfection in the case of the former. The following table shows the number of houses disinfected following infectious disease during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	91
Diphtheria	41
Meningitis	9
Paratyphoid Fever ..	2
Poliomyelitis	18
Dysentery	4
Tuberculosis	40
Erysipelas	4
Total	209

PUBLIC HOUSES AND CLUBS.

Seventy-five inspections of licensed premises and clubs were made during the year when attention was primarily directed to the adequacy and condition of sanitary accommodation. Informal action was successfully taken in five cases to secure an improvement in the standard of maintenance. Arrangements for the washing of glasses were carefully watched and it is pleasing to record not only an improvement in this respect but a growing appreciation in the trade of the value of sterilisation of glasses as distinct from the purely mechanical action of cleansing them. Many proposals for the alteration and improvement of licensed premises were submitted for consideration during the year and the opportunity was invariably taken in commenting on the plans to stress the desirability of inclusion in all cases of personal washing facilities not only for the staff but also for patrons.

Sampling of beer for bacteriological examination has never, to my knowledge, been undertaken in this district. In places where such a pleasant duty has been performed it is reported that an unsatisfactory result in respect of bitter beer is almost unknown. The possibility of antiseptic properties in the "national beverage" is gratifying but will doubtless come as no surprise to experienced devotees.

CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS.

Forty-nine inspections were made in respect of heating, lighting, ventilation and sanitary accommodation.

Three informal notices were served.

Five notices, including two outstanding, were complied with.

RODENT CONTROL.

The new Act greatly strengthens the powers of county district authorities and furnishes them with the means of achieving considerable headway towards the ultimate goal of total extermination of rats and mice.

Considerable research has been conducted during recent years by highly skilled teams of workers into the most effective methods of combating the rat menace and the information so obtained has been utilised by the Ministry in guiding the activities of local authorities. Applied properly and systematically, the ultimate success of such methods can be relied upon and therefore the placing, under the new Act, of responsibility on district councils for ensuring that, as far as practicable, their areas are kept clear of rats should be regarded as a challenge which may be-accepted confidently.

Section 2 of the Act calls for the submission of such reports as may be required at the end of each calendar year showing (1) the prevalence of rats and mice in the district and extent to which measures of control have been carried out, (2) any special circumstances to which undue presence of rats may be attributed and (3) the nature and extent of co-operative working with neighbouring authorities and the County Agricultural Executive Committee. A suitable standard form of report was ultimately produced and has been included for the period covered by the operation of the Act. Very important Regulations, made under Section 8, have been introduced requiring owners and others concerned in threshing of ricks to take specified precautions to ensure destruction of rats harbouring in ricks, whilst Section 11 provides for half the irrecoverable expenditure incurred in performance of the local authorities duties under the Act to be recovered from the Ministry thereby continuing the satisfactory arrangements operating during recent years.

Area meetings, held for the purpose of considering various aspects and applications of the work, were held in March and October of the year and both were attended by members of the Council and the appropriate officers. Circumstances calling for co-operative working with neighbouring authorities did not arise during the year ; the need for co-operative working with the County Agricultural Executive Committee is more obvious and some concern is felt at the absence of any working arrangement.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the financial year at six-monthly intervals and a noticeable feature in the work was the considerable reduction in the number of manholes requiring treatment. The practice was continued of engaging two rodent labourers in a temporary capacity to assist in the work.

Complaints of infestation by rats or mice were confirmed in 166 cases. Ten infestations were found to be of a major character and included Council tips in three cases, business premises in five cases and private dwellings in the remaining two.

Towards the end of the year a number of complaints were received from tenants of rat infestations of the Council's aluminium bungalows. A quick survey carried out in collaboration with the Engineer and Surveyor revealed that construction joints on the front and back and corner sections of the bungalows had not been properly sealed off at the base thereby allowing rodents easy access to the interior. The Surveyor promptly undertook to ensure that all bungalows of this type would be examined and faults in construction remedied.

Any estimated kill in deratisation work must vary between wide limits and the accuracy of any figures offered must accordingly be treated with some reserve. It is best to determine and judge the success of any treatment by the subsequent freedom from infestation of the premises concerned, but for those who like figures the Rodent Officer's estimate shows 1,327 rats and mice destroyed in surface treatments alone. The figure is based on the assumption that the kill will be approximately equivalent to two-and-a-half times the weight in ounces of poison bait taken.

SEWERS

	No of Manholes Baited.	No. of Manholes Baited showing part takes of pre-bait.	No. of Manholes Baited showing complete takes of pre-bait.	Approximate Cost.	Recoverable by Grant.	Nett Cost to Council.
Maintenance Treatment (Year Ending 31/3/51)	2788	383	269	£322 6 4	£161 3 2	£161 3 2

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949—Report for period 31st March to 31st December, 1950.

1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	vii)
	Number of properties in Local Authority's Area				Analysis of Colu mn ((iv)		
PROPERTY	Total	in which infestation was			Number infested by		
		Notified by Occupier	Otherwise discovered	Recorded (Total of (ii) & (iii))	Rats*		Mice only
					Major	Minor	
Local Authority's Property . .	31	12	—	12	4	5	3
Dwelling Houses	21,619	79	3	82	—	49	33
Business Premises	1,566	15	—	15	2	9	4
Agricultural Property	145	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL . .	23,361	106	3	109	6	63	40

2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUHTORITY

TYPE OF PROPERTY	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of notices served under Section 4		Number of treatments † carried out				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Section 6 (1) or by informal arrangement		
					By arrangement with Occupier		Under Section 5 (1)		Number of Blocks	Surface	Associated sewers
			Treatments	Works	Rats*	Mice only	Rats*	Mice only		Number of separate occupancies	Number of manholes treated
Local Authority . .	20	138	—	—	21	3	—	—	—	—	—
Dwelling Houses . .	102	409	—	—	49	33	—	—	4	14	113
Business Premises . .	15	92	—	—	11	4	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL . .	137	639	—	—	81	40	—	—	4	14	113

Notes on Completion of Parts 1 and 2

LOCAL AUTHORITY'S PROPERTIES. Council houses included under dwelling houses and premises occupied by Local Authority for purposes of trade included under Business Premises.

COMBINED DWELLING AND BUSINESS PREMISES occupied by same person included under Business Premises.

FARMS, SMALLHOLDINGS, POULTRY FARMS and other premises devoted to commercial agriculture or horticulture included under Agricultural Property.

DEGREE OF INFESTATION. "Major" infestations include estimated rat population exceeding 20.

TREATMENT means a complete operation for the destruction of rats or mice in the property affected.

*Includes properties infested with both rats and mice.

†Excludes treatment included under block treatment.

HOUSING.

A total of 431 Council houses was inspected during the year either on the occasion of the houses becoming vacant or prior to exchange. The general condition of the property was invariably reported and both the Surveyor and Accountant informed of details of disrepair. A valuable opportunity is given under this system of inspection prior to exchanges being confirmed to recommend refusal where a house is observed to be wilfully neglected.

Eighty-six applications for Council houses were investigated by the District Inspectors. Reports on the living conditions and circumstances of the applicants were prepared and forwarded to local members for their information and consideration.

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of visits and re-visits	2,096
Number of informal notices served	147
Number of statutory notices served	23
Number of notices complied with	125

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

During the year 212 inspections of premises subject to the provisions of the above Act were made, principally in connection with sanitary accommodation, and, in those factories where mechanical power is not employed to ensure adequate lighting, ventilation, heating, general cleanliness and prevention of overcrowding in workrooms.

Informal action to remedy defects was taken on 21 occasions with a satisfactory conclusion during the year in 17 instances.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

This Act consolidates the Shops Acts 1912–1938. The functions of the District Council are unchanged and limited to administering those sections relating to provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature.

Regular inspections of shop premises were maintained throughout the year and informal action in respect of minor faults was successful in all cases.

No application was received during the year for certificates of exemption in respect of the provision of sanitary conveniences.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	15	43	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	78	133	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	27	36	2	—
TOTAL	120	212	10	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	9	7	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	2	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	4	4	—	1	—
TOTAL	21	17	—	3	—

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

MEAT.

The government controlled abattoir at Station Town continues to serve the needs of the 80,000 population of the rural district. Difficulties in slaughtering procedure and proper storage of carcases and offal at peak slaughtering periods have been stressed frequently in previous reports and I fail to see that any useful purpose would be served by further reference to them on this occasion. It is sufficient to report that they still recur and are disposed of as satisfactorily as long experience and willing endeavour can devise.

During the year 16,319 animals were slaughtered. This figure shows an overall increase of 1,436 when compared with the previous year and consists of 596 cattle, 587 sheep, 56 pigs and 197 calves. As may be anticipated there is a corresponding increase in the amount of meat and edible offal condemned, an increase which is largely due to the additional 114 casualty animals received. All condemned carcase meat and offal was salvaged for industrial purposes and existing arrangements and guarantees continued under the general supervision of the Ministry of Food.

Tables showing stock slaughtered and the incidence of disease together with comparative figures of total condemnations during past years follow for convenient reference.

OTHER FOODS.

No material change has occurred in the position as described in the report for the year, 1949. Removal of "points" rationing relieved traders of the necessity of securing confirmation of their claims before replacements of stock could be authorised, but many firms continue to ask for similar certificates as independent supporting evidence of their claims against suppliers. There is rarely any doubt about the unfitness or unmarketability of the foodstuff in question, but an appreciable amount of time is expended on occasions in checking the condition of all articles involved. Some evidence of this will be gathered from a brief perusal of the table showing the quantities of provisions and miscellaneous tinned stuff condemned during the year. All commodities which are still rationed must be examined and supported by certificate before replacement is allowed. Unfit quantities are returned by the trader through established trade channels.

In one instance only during the year a quantity of dried fruit which was reported to be unfit for consumption was found on examination to be suitable for further processing and large enough to justify transport. It was accordingly notified to the Ministry.

Carcases, Organs and Edible Offal condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption during year 1950.

	Carcases, etc.				Lung (Sets)			Hearts		Kid-neys	Livers			Heads & Tongues		Sets Stomachs and Intestines	Fat	Udd'rs
	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Ox	Cow
Abscesses	11 sts.		1 st.								172	1				1		
Actinomycosis														7				
Aspirations					2													
Bacilliary Necrosis											1		1					
Bruising and Injury	22 sts.																	
Capilliary Angioma											5							
Cirrhosis											576							
Congestion					5	4												
Contamination	20 sts.																2 sts.	
Cystic Conditions					404						4	9						
Cysticercus Bovis								2						2				
Decomposition	3 sts.		14c	1c														
Degeneration											9							
Distomatosis												136						
Emaciation &/or Oedema	2c	3c	2c															
Immaturity		2c																
Jaundice		1c																
Lipoma																	1	
Mastitis																		25
Nephritis										8								
Pericarditis (Including Septic & Traumatic)								6										
Peritonitis																7		
Pleurisy			1 st.		3													
Pneumonia (Gangrenous)	2c																	
Pneumonia					5	14	1											
Pyaemia	1c	3c																
Septic Conditions		1c		2c														
Tuberculosis	13c + 3	1c		1c	346		4	2		21	31			116	7	45	17	9
Infected with Food Poisoning Organisms (Salmonella-Newport)				21 sts.														

"C" indicates Casualty Animal.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Slaughtered at Government Controlled Abattoir	3216 plus 38 Casualties	668 plus 81 Casualties	470 plus 214 Casualties	11285 plus 59 Casualties	225 plus 63 Casualties
Number Slaughtered under private licence	—	—	—	1	718
Whole Carcases condemned (T.B. only)	3	13 Casualties	1 Casualty	—	1 Casualty
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned (T.B. only)	397		—	—	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	10.3%		0.1%	—	0.3%
Carcases condemned. (All diseases excluding T.B.)	1 Casualty	2 Casualties	4 Casualties	—	2 Casualties
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned. (All diseases excluding T.B.)	378		5	14	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	9.4%		1.3%	0.1%	1%

Provisions, Fish, etc., Condemned as being Unfit for Human Consumption during year, 1950.

Cause of Unfitness	Provisions, Loose			Tinned Foods				Fish, etc.		
		sts.	lbs.			sts.	lbs.		sts.	lbs.
Decomposition/Fire	Bacon and Ham	30	7							
	Eggs	9	11							
	Tomatoes	11	6½							
	Manufactured—									
	Meat Products	21	4¼							
	Sundries	85	12¼							
Rancidity and Mould Stains	Butter	22	11¼							
	Margarine	16	10½							
	Fats	15	9							
Extensive Mould	Cheese	17	2¾							
Damage by Fire, Contamination by Mice and Mite Infestation	Cereals, etc.	36	6¾		Quantity Preserves	18	3			
	Flour	110	6							
	Coconut	40	0							
	Semolina	11	2							
	Dried Vegetables	43	0							
	Dried Milk	8	0							
Fermentation	Dried Fruits	44	11½							
Spoilage due to Damp	Sugar	130	0							
	Tea	2	1¾							
Infringement of Heat Treatment Regulations	Ice Cream	6	0							
Decomposition due to Blown and Damaged Tins				19	Tins Corned Beef	8	2			
				313	Tins Fish Products	18	11¼			
				157	Tins Fruit	25	5¼			
				691	Tins Meat Products	82	10¼			
				608	Tins Milk	41	11½			
				70	Tins Preserves	9	9¾			
				4	Tins Sundries		6¼			
				524	Tins Vegetable Products	43	6¾			
Breakages				6	Jars Sundries		4¼			
				36	Jars Preserves	2	12¼			
Decomposition, Fish								Cod Fish Fillets	37	4
								Kippers	4	0
								Herring	10	3

Total weight of Meat and Edible Offal condemned	4,344 sts. 0¾ lbs.
Total weight of Tinned Foods, etc., condemned	966 sts. 10 lbs.
Total Weight ..	5,310 sts. 10¾ lbs.

=33 Tons 3 Cwts. 6 Sts. 10¾ lbs.

Year ending 31st December	Weight of Meat and Other Foods Condemned. tons.	cwts.	sts.	lbs.
1936	1	3	2	12
1937	4	13	1	1
1938	2	1	6	3
1939	3	16	5	13
1940	21	1	3	0
1941	17	12	5	2
1942	11	3	4	7
1943	18	12	4	6¾
1944	21	4	4	1¼
1945	25	11	1	10½
1946	23	1	0	5¾
1947	29	13	0	5¼
1948	30	3	7	6¾
1949	24	18	3	10¾
1950	33	3	6	10¾

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1933.

The two vehicles used for the transport of meat from the abattoir were frequently examined by the meat inspector both prior to and during loading and are reported to have been generally well maintained. One vehicle which was fitted with a wooden body was re-fitted with a ventilated metal meat container incorporating improved hanging accommodation.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894–1909.

No case of notifiable disease, swine fever, anthrax, etc., was confirmed during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

All animals at the abattoir are stunned and slaughtered by competent licensed slaughtermen and so far as the somewhat limited facilities at the abattoir allow all precautions are taken to prevent any unnecessary suffering by the animals, all of which are mechanically stunned prior to slaughter.

The Act is admittedly intended to prevent unnecessary suffering to animals, and yet little guidance is available to local authorities who are obliged to consider applications for licences. The applicant must be not less than 18 years of age and be a "fit and proper" person—women are not specifically excluded. Frequently the applicant is an enthusiastic bacon curer who prefers to start with the live animal. Outside the slaughter house he does not require a licence but if he wishes to indulge his hobby inside—and ultimately he must—he needs one. He is invariably quite capable of killing and dressing a pig carcase and therefore may be regarded as being a "fit and proper" person to hold a licence. With it he is entitled to enter any abattoir in the country for the purpose of stunning and slaughtering sheep and cattle—operations for which he is totally unqualified either by training or experience. That he is not likely to do such a thing appears to me to be an evasion—the fact remains that his licence permits him to do it. I should prefer the grant of such licences to be subject to greater evidence of ability and the issue of them consequently restricted in some measure.

The number of licences issued during the year to persons authorising them to slaughter animals in a slaughter house or knackers yard was 11 including 5 renewals. This brings the total number of licensed slaughtermen in the district to 61.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Two cows were taken to the abattoir during the year directly as a result of positive milk samples taken by the district sanitary inspectors. Both were found, on post-mortem examination, to be affected and lesions observed in both udders. In neither instance was the disease generalised and the carcases were therefore passed for human consumption after condemnation of the affected parts and organs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The importance with which legislation governing the storage, processing and distribution of food is regarded has been emphasised in reports covering the work of both 1948 and 1949. Similarly both the immediate objects of the District Inspectors' visits and their long term aims have been explained. Certain ideas were included and it is gratifying to observe that one of them, which was calculated to secure uniform improvement, i.e. registration of all premises engaged in the preparation and manipulation of food, is gaining a growing measure of support.

In the rural district regular inspections continue to be made of all premises where food is prepared or stored for purposes of sale and it is especially pleasing to report a growing awareness not only of the value of a "constant" supply of hot water for all washing purposes as distinct from a "sufficient" supply, but also of refrigeration equipment. It is ironical to learn that, as a result of one's advice, a shopkeeper orders such equipment only to be prevented from installing it because the local electricity network is already overloaded.

The numbers of food premises registered, visited and subject to informal action during the year are detailed in the following table :—

Premises	Number Registered	Number of Inspections	Notices Served	Notices Complied With
Fried Fish Shops	54	147	24	20
Butchers' Shops	58	110	4	4
Ice Cream Shops	89	197	2	2
Restaurants, etc.	Nil	125	15	9
Other Food Prem.	Nil.	326	22	17
TOTALS	201	905	67	52

Twenty-eight applications for registration of premises for 'the sale of ice-cream' under Section 14 of the Act were received during the year and 27 were approved. One was rejected on the grounds that 'a sufficient supply of clean water both hot and cold' in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 was not available. It should be noted that in the majority of cases the applications, by mutual consent, were not submitted for consideration until the shopkeeper had discussed his proposal with the Inspector for the particular district and the Inspector was finally satisfied with the arrangements provided.

A total of 155 samples of ice cream was taken during the year for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne. The villages at which the samples were collected and their grading are shown in table form. All samples attaining grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory. The steady improvement in the bacterial purity of this confection is shown clearly by the following comparison :—

Year	No. of samples taken	No. satisfactory	Percentage satisfactory
1948	69	45	65%
1949	194	142	73%
1950	155	127	82%

(All samples submitted to Methylene Blue Reduction Test)

The collection of samples for fat analysis instituted in 1949 at the request of the Ministry of Food was continued throughout the year and it should be borne in mind that during the whole of this time the minimum requisite fat standard remained at 2·5%. An additional 82 samples of ice cream manufactured within the rural district were collected for this purpose and examined by Mr. W. Gordon Carey, Public Analyst, Newcastle upon Tyne. Results, which were forwarded at monthly intervals to the Ministry, showed 73 samples (89%) to be above the minimum figure and nine below.

Near the end of the year concern was expressed by some members of the Council following the rapid growth in sales of iced-lollies and it was therefore arranged that occasional check sampling of this confection be undertaken for bacteriological purposes. Results obtained up to the end of the year were satisfactory in all cases.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING—YEAR 1950.

District	Methylene Blue								Fat Content			
	Grades											
	1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%	Above	%	Below	%
Horden ..	16	89	—	—	2	11	—	—	9	82	2	18
Blackhall ..	6	86	1	14	—	—	—	—	5	100	—	—
Blackhall Rocks	5	71	2	29	—	—	—	—	7	100	—	—
Shotton	7	87	—	—	—	—	1	13	4	100	—	—
Haswell	7	70	—	—	2	20	1	10	3	100	—	—
Easington ..	2	50	1	25	1	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Easington Collery	15	68	2	9	1	5	4	18	15	94	1	6
Wingate	17	57	8	27	4	13	1	3	15	75	5	25
Station Town ..	1	20	3	60	—	—	1	20	—	—	—	—
Thornley ..	1	50	—	—	—	—	1	50	1	50	1	50
Trimdon Station	—	—	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wheatley Hill ..	7	70	2	20	1	10	—	—	4	100	—	—
Murton	15	58	4	15	5	19	2	8	10	100	—	—
South Hetton ..	3	60	1	20	—	—	1	20	—	—	—	—
	102	66	25	16	16	10	12	8	73	89	9	11

Total Methylene Blue Samples	155
Total Fat Content Samples	82

Milk Supply—Supervision.

Supervision of the production and distribution of milk is now largely encompassed by regulations made under the following Acts :—

(1) Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, and
(2) Milk (Special Designation) Act, 1949.

The regulations referred to above are :—

(1) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
(2) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.
(3) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Under these regulations control of production has passed to the Ministry of Agriculture, whilst distribution remains the concern of the local authority. In my introductory letter I expressed the opinion that the degree of supervision previously exercised in the district over the production of milk is not being maintained. Some evidence in support of that contention may be seen by reference to the tabulated sampling results. Thirty per cent. (30%) of all raw milk samples failed to attain satisfactory coliform results. From a considerably greater number of samples taken during the previous year the comparable percentage figure was 17·11.

A total of 352 milk samples was submitted for examination during the year consisting of 110 samples of raw milk, which were tested for keeping quality and cleanliness, 107 samples of pasteurised and sterilised which were subjected to additional tests designed to establish the efficiency of heat treatment and 136 samples taken for detection of tubercle bacilli. Arising from the latter examination six positive results were received. The Divisional Inspector (Animal Health Division) of the Ministry of Agriculture was immediately informed in each case. In three instances action was taken to restrain the sale of the infected milk supply and re-direct it for heat treatment pending identification and removal for slaughter of the animals responsible. Unfortunately, in the remaining cases, such action could not legally be taken since the composition of the herd was found to have altered following the original sampling.

On those occasions when raw milk samples failed to satisfy the prescribed tests and the District Inspectors reported favourably on the distributors premises and methods copies of the bacteriologist's reports were forwarded for information to the County Milk Production Officer with whom full and friendly co-operation is maintained. All sampling work is shown in the table overleaf.

Forty-two milk distributors (other than dairy farmers) are at present registered with the Council under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and 11 premises (other than dairy farms).

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 65 principal and 2 supplementary licences have been granted authorising the use of the appropriate designations in connection with the sale of milk inside the boundaries of the rural district.

During the course of the year 254 inspections of distributors premises were made and 12 informal notices served in respect of infringements of the provisions of the regulations. In 10 cases ready compliance with the terms of the notices was obtained.

MILK SAMPLING.

352 samples of raw and heat treated milk were taken for examination during 1950, with the following results :—

	No. of Samples Taken	Methylene Blue Test			Bacillus Coliform Test			Phosphatase Test			Turbidity Test			Biological Examination for Tuberculosis			
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	% Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	% Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	% Unsatisfactory	Negative	Positive	% Positive	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	% Positive
Raw Milk . .	110	91	19	17·27	77	33	30·00	—	—	—	—	—	—	98	6	3	5·60
Pasteurised Milk . .	99	98	1	1·01	97	2	2·06	97	2	2·06	—	—	—	24	Nil	2	Nil
Sterilised Milk . .	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLY

(Contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor).

SEWERAGE.

The usual maintenance of all District Sewers was carried out during the year. Extensions to Sewerage Systems were carried out due to Housing Development and the following additional works were carried out :—

(1) BLACKHALL. 50% of the proposed extension to the existing culvert running under the road at Blue House Gill was made, to provide a Refuse Disposal Tip. The remainder of the scheme was started this year and is now complete. A new Sewage Disposal Works was constructed for the Blackhall Squatters' Camp.

(2) HORDEN. Part of the sewer running along the Coast Road was re-constructed in glazed earthenware pipes after the existing concrete pipes had failed.

(3) STATION TOWN. An investigation of Street Flooding in Rodridge Street was made and a scheme prepared for the construction of an 18 in. diameter sewer to replace the existing 12 in. diameter sewer.

(4) DALTON-LE-DALE. Flooding occurred in this area and a scheme was prepared for the construction of a 12 in. diameter relief sewer.

(5) CASTLE EDEN. A scheme was prepared and approved in principle for the construction of a small Pumping Station.

WATER SUPPLY.

Maintenance of service reservoirs and distribution mains in the Council's water supply received regular attention during the year. Routine inspection for waste was made in all areas, in the course of which taps and ball-taps were rewashered as it was found to be necessary.

Main meters, of which there are 18, were read weekly and meters on private supplies numbering 152 were read quarterly. Of the 152 meters on private supplies, 134 are the property of the Council, the remainder being the property of the consumer.

For meters owned by the Council a quarterly rental is charged according to the size of the meter.

Extensions were made to the water mains to provide for housing development at Wheatley Hill, Hutton Henry, Horden (2 sites), and South Hetton.

A defective 2 in. main supplying Heath View, Station Town was replaced by a new 3 in. main, and alterations were made to mains at Fleming Field as a result of which the mains no longer necessary at Haswell Moor are now completely cut off.

Details of mains laid and hydrants provided in connection with the above :—

Wheatley Hill	10 houses.	97 yds.	3 in. mains.	
Hutton Henry	8 houses.	100 yds.	3 in. mains.	1 hydrant.
Hutton Henry	8 houses.	60 yds.	4 in. mains.	
Horden	22 houses.	180 yds.	3 in. mains.	1 hydrant.
Horden	8 houses.	110 yds.	3 in. mains.	
South Hetton	8 houses.	72 yds.	3 in. mains.	
Heath View		210 yds.	3 in. mains.	1 hydrant.
Fleming Field		24 yds.	3 in. mains.	

Three more farms in the Sheraton area have had a piped supply laid on to the premises, these being Sheraton High Buildings, Sheraton Grange and Sheraton West Grange.

With regard to the supply of soft water from Burnhope Reservoir, I understand that owing to the inclemency of the weather and the difficulty of obtaining suitable labour, work on the filtering plant has been considerably retarded and as a result of this it is unlikely that the supply will be available for some considerable time, probably late in the coming year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(Contributed by the Cleansing Superintendent).

STONES IN STREETS.

This term, readily recognised in colliery districts, created many discussions during the year and was the subject of numerous reports and interviews with National Coal Board officials. The workmen, through their Union, requested action and the Council fully realising the permanent nuisance caused by the sorting of stones from coal delivered and dumped in the streets attempted to rectify the position.

Experimental periods of collections were arranged and from data obtained it was apparent that :—

(1) Normal collections of household refuse were being delayed.

(2) Maintenance costs on vehicles were higher due to the extra weight carried in order to maintain a satisfactory cleansing service.

(3) Street gullies and sinks needed more frequent attention.

(4) Streets were never clear of stone or small coal accumulations.

(5) During the winter months risk of injury was always a possibility in poorly lighted back streets.

(6) Throughout the district the quantity of stones varied from 1 to 2 cwts. for every 15 cwts. of coal led.

(7) The quantity of ash deposited in the dust bin increased in various areas by virtue of the dirty coal delivered.

Slight improvement was seen in some areas but throughout the year the position deteriorated and it now remains acute.

SICKNESS.

An increase in sickness payments resulted in interviews with certain workmen by the Cleansing Chairman and Local Members. The Council was greatly concerned and although improvement was registered in some cases dismissal was necessary in others.

DISPOSAL AREAS.

A complete survey of available disposal areas was carried out during the year and although the position generally is satisfactory for the next ten years, greater travel in some areas will be experienced in the next 2 or 3 years. For the purpose of assisting controlled tipping in large areas the Council purchased a Muledozer and many jobs of levelling, consolidating, roadmaking and spreading have been successfully tackled. During the month of May Members of the Council carried out an inspection of disposal areas and depots.

WASTE PAPER RECOVERY.

Towards the end of the year the Council entered into a five year contract with the Thames Board Mills and arrangements were made to commence collecting early in 1951.

A target of 25 tons per month was set and payment of a quarterly incentive bonus to all cleansing workmen was agreed.

Handbills were distributed to householders drawing their attention to the scheme to be operated by the Council and stressing the necessity for saving waste paper and cardboard.

In the National interest the public are urged to support the Council's effort in the recovery of this vital waste material.

COSTING.

With the assistance of your Accountant and Chief Rating Officer a costing system was commenced in the department and half yearly statements prepared. Each vehicle in service is costed separately and allows for easy itemising of cost against any place in the district.

Comparison of costs has, in some cases, revealed interesting variations in running vehicles. Experience has also been gained, since this method of costing was introduced, of the contrasts in working costs as applied to the parishes of this large rural area.

GENERAL.

Changes in Public Cleansing throughout this district may be visualised in the near future with the advent of modern, large type vehicles with greater carrying capacity. The older workmen themselves can appreciate the improved methods that are now in operation and younger workmen need not feel that the work of a dustman is unimportant but is an essential service in the interests of public health.

In conclusion, I wish to express thanks to my Chairman and members of the Cleansing Committee for the interest and initiative shown on the numerous problems confronting a department of this kind, and to both inside and outside staff who have loyally assisted me in the many matters of reorganisation now operating successfully.

William Barlow & Son, Ltd.,
West Hartlepool.